

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing a virtual consultant, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) connecting a server and one or more users;
 - (b) selecting a first destination within the server to interact with the one or more users;
 - (c) coupling the one or more users through the server based on the first destination;
 - (d) establishing interaction parameters for the one or more users based on the first destination;
 - (e) selecting a second destination within the server to interact with the one or more users; and
 - (f) modifying the interaction parameters for the one or more users in accordance with the second destination.
2. (Previously Presented) A method for establishing a virtual consultant as recited in claim 1, wherein the first and second destinations include a reception area where users can interact using collaborative functions.
3. (Previously Presented) A method for establishing a virtual consultant as recited in claim 1, wherein the first and second destinations include a virtual library where a user can use resources, consult with a virtual librarian, search for resources and collaborate with one or more other users.
4. (Previously Presented) A method for establishing a virtual consultant as recited in claim 1, wherein the first and second destinations include an office where a user can consult with a virtual consultant.
5. (Previously Presented) A method for establishing a virtual consultant as recited in claim 1, wherein the first and second destinations include a virtual lounge where a user can socialize, view a directory of other consultants and view information.
6. (Original) A method for establishing a virtual consultant as recited in claim 1, wherein the interactions parameters include support for collaboration.

7. (Original) A method for establishing a virtual consultant as recited in claim 1, wherein the interaction parameters include support for bulletin board functions.

8. (Original) A method for establishing a virtual consultant as recited in claim 1, wherein the interaction parameters include support for recording a session.

9. (Original) A method for establishing a virtual consultant as recited in claim 1, wherein the interaction parameters include support for electronic distribution of consulting materials.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for establishing a virtual consultant, comprising:

- (a) logic that connects a server and one or more users;
- (b) logic that selects a first destination within the server to interact with the one or more users;
- (c) logic that couples the one or more users through the server based on the first destination;
- (d) logic that establishes interaction parameters for the one or more users based on the first destination;
- (e) logic that selects a second destination within the server to interact with the one or more users; and
- (f) logic that modifies the interaction parameters for the one or more users in accordance with the second destination.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom, comprising:

- (a) a code segment that connects a server and one or more users;
- (b) a code segment that selects a first destination within the server to interact with the one or more users;
- (c) a code segment that couples the one or more users through the server based on the first destination;
- (d) a code segment that establishes interaction parameters for the one or more users based on the first destination;

- (e) a code segment that selects a second destination within the server to interact with the one or more users; and
- (f) a code segment that modifies the interaction parameters for the one or more users in accordance with the second destination.

12. (Previously Presented) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 11, wherein the first and second destinations include a reception area where users can interact using collaborative functions.

13. (Previously Presented) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 11, wherein the first and second destinations include a virtual library where a user can use resources, consult with a virtual librarian, search for resources and collaborate with one or more other users.

14. (Previously Presented) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 11, wherein the first and second destinations include an office where a user can consult with a virtual consultant.

15. (Previously Presented) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 11, wherein the first and second destinations include a virtual lounge where a user can socialize, view a director / of other consultants and view information.

16. (Original) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 11, wherein the interaction parameters include support for collaboration.

17. (Original) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 11, wherein the interaction parameters include support for bulleting board functions.

18. (Original) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 11, wherein the interaction parameters include support for recording a session.

19. (Original) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 11, wherein the interaction parameters include support for electronic distribution of consulting material.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for providing one or more virtual instructors, comprising the steps of:

- (a) connecting a server and one or more users and a first virtual instructor;
- (b) selecting a destination within the server to interact with the one or more users;
- (c) coupling the one or more users through the server based on the selected destination;
- (d) establishing interaction parameters for the one or more users based on the selected destination; and
- (e) dynamically adding a second virtual instructor.

21. (Previously Presented) The method for providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 20, wherein the second virtual instructor monitors progress and provides feedback.

22. (Previously Presented) The method for providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 20, wherein the second virtual instructor is selected by the one or more users.

23. (Previously Presented) The method for providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 20, wherein the second virtual instructor becomes the principal instructor.

24. (Previously Presented) The method for providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 20, wherein the second virtual instructor works with the first instructor to instruct the one or more users.

25. (Previously Presented) The method for providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 20, wherein the second virtual instructor collaborates privately with the first virtual instructor.

26. (Previously Presented) The method for providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 20, wherein the second virtual instructor leads a breakout session with one or more of the users.

27. (Previously Presented) The method for establishing a virtual instructor is recited in claim 20, wherein the second virtual instructor is selected by the first virtual instructor.

28. (Previously Presented) The method for establishing a virtual instructor is recited in claim 20, wherein the interaction parameters include support for electronic distribution of materials from the second virtual instructor.

29. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for providing one or more virtual instructors, comprising:

- (a) logic that connects a server and one or more users and a first virtual instructor;
- (b) logic that selects a destination within the server to interact with the one or more users;
- (c) logic that couples the one or more users through the server based on the selected destination;
- (d) logic that establishes interaction parameters for the one or more users based on the selected destination; and
- (e) logic that dynamically adds a second virtual instructor.

30. (Previously Presented) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that providing one or more virtual instructors, comprising:

- (a) code that connects a server and one or more users and a first virtual instructor;
- (b) code that selects a destination within the server to interact with the one or more users;
- (c) code that couples the one or more users through the server based on the selected destination;
- (d) code that establishes interaction parameters for the one or more users based on the selected destination; and
- (e) code that dynamically adds a second virtual instructor.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 30, wherein the second virtual instructor monitors progress and provides feedback.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 30, wherein the second virtual instructor is selected by the one or more users.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 30, wherein the second virtual instructor becomes the principal instructor.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 30, wherein the second virtual instructor works with the first instructor to instruct the one or more users.

35. (Previously Presented) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 30, wherein the second virtual instructor collaborates privately with the first virtual instructor.

36. (Previously Presented) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 30, wherein the second virtual instructor leads a breakout session with one or more of the users.

37. (Previously Presented) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 30, wherein the second virtual instructor is selected by the first virtual instructor.

38. (Previously Presented) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that providing one or more virtual instructors as recited in claim 30, wherein the interaction parameters include support for electronic distribution of materials from the second virtual instructor.

39. (Withdrawn) A method for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session, comprising the steps of:

- (a) initiating a session with a virtual director;
- (b) prompting a user to enter a response congruent with a goal;
- (c) receiving the response to the goal;
- (d) transmitting the response to the virtual director;

- (e) calculating a level of congruency between the response and a target response designed to achieve the goal under the supervision of the virtual director;
- (f) providing feedback to the user reflecting the level of congruency to assist the user in achieving the goal; and
- (g) providing remedial information to assist the user in achieving the goal; wherein at least one of the steps of the method can be executed manually under the supervision of the virtual director.

40. (Withdrawn) The method for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 39, wherein the user is manually prompted to enter the response congruent with the goal.

41. (Withdrawn) The method for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 39, wherein the level of congruency is manually calculated.

42. (Withdrawn) The method for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 39, wherein the feedback to the user is provided manually.

43. (Withdrawn) The method for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 39, wherein the remedial information to assist the user in achieving the goal is determined manually.

44. (Withdrawn) The method for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 39, wherein the method is executed on a plurality of servers which are coupled through a computer network.

45. (Withdrawn) The method for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 44, wherein the computer network supports Internet Protocol (IP).

46. (Withdrawn) The method for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 44, wherein the computer network includes a Local Area Network (LAN).

47. (Withdrawn) The method for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 44, wherein the computer network includes a Wide Area Network (WAN).

48. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for establishing a virtual director that coordinates a training session, comprising:

- (a) logic that initiates a session with a virtual director;
- (b) logic that prompts a user to enter a response congruent with a goal;
- (c) logic that receives the response to the goal;
- (d) logic that transmits the response to the virtual director;
- (e) logic that calculates a level of congruency between the response and a target response designed to achieve the goal under the supervision of the virtual director;
- (f) logic that provides feedback to the user reflecting the level of congruency to assist the user in achieving the goal; and
- (g) logic that provides remedial information to assist the user in achieving the goal, wherein at least one of the logic is executed manually under the supervision of the virtual director.

49. (Withdrawn) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual director that coordinates a training session, comprising:

- (a) a code segment that initiates a session with a virtual director;
- (b) a code segment that prompts a user to enter a response congruent with the goal;
- (c) a code segment that receives the response to the goal;
- (d) a code segment that transmits the response to the virtual director;
- (e) a code segment that calculates a level of congruency between the response and a target response designed to achieve the goal under the supervision of the virtual director;
- (f) a code segment that provides feedback to the user reflecting the level of congruency to assist the user in achieving the goal; and
- (g) a code segment that provides remedial information including information from the help engine to assist the user in achieving the goal, wherein at least one of the code segments can be executed manually under the supervision of the virtual director.

50. (Withdrawn) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 49, wherein a user is prompted manually to enter a response congruent with a goal.

51. (Withdrawn) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 49, wherein the level of congruency is calculated manually.

52. (Withdrawn) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 49, wherein the feedback to the user is provided manually.

53. (Withdrawn) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 49, wherein the remedial information to assist the user in achieving the goal is determined manually.

54. (Withdrawn) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 49, wherein the computer program resides on a plurality of servers which are coupled through a computer network.

55. (Withdrawn) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 54, wherein the computer network supports Internet Protocol (IP).

56. (Withdrawn) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 54, wherein the computer network includes a Local Area Network (LAN).

57. (Withdrawn) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual director that coordinates a training session as recited in claim 54, wherein the computer network includes a Wide Area Network (WAN).

58. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing a virtual classroom, comprising the steps of:

- (a) connecting a virtual classroom server and one or more students;
- (b) selecting, based on a student profile, a presentation type for instructing the one or more students;

- (c) coupling the one or more students and one or more instructors through the virtual classroom server; and
- (d) establishing interaction parameters for the one or more students and the one or more instructors; and
- (e) updating the student profile during a simulation without disruption to the simulation.

59. (Previously Presented) The method for establishing a virtual classroom as recited in claim 58, wherein the presentation type includes at least one of lecture, simulation, media, interactive browsing, slideshow, video or audio.

60. (Previously Presented) The method for establishing a virtual classroom as recited in claim 58, wherein the interaction parameters are a protocol for interaction that allow only one person to interact with the virtual classroom at a time.

61. (Previously Presented) The method for establishing a virtual classroom as recited in claim 58, wherein the interaction parameters are a protocol for interaction that allow a plurality of people to participate in the virtual classroom.

62. (Previously Presented) The method for establishing a virtual classroom as recited in claim 58, wherein materials are provided for use by the one or more students and one or more teachers in the virtual classroom.

63. (Previously Presented) The method for establishing a virtual classroom as recited in claim 58, wherein homework materials are provided for use by the one or more students in the virtual classroom.

64. (Previously Presented) The method for establishing a virtual classroom as recited in claim 58, wherein tests are provided for use by the one or more students.

65. (Previously Presented) The method for establishing a virtual classroom as recited in claim 58, wherein breakout sessions are provided for the one or more students and one or more teachers in the virtual classroom.

66. (Previously Presented) The method for establishing a virtual classroom as recited in claim 58, wherein grades are distributed electronically.

67. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for establishing a virtual classroom comprising:

- (a) logic that connects a virtual classroom server and one or more students
- (b) logic that selects, based on a student profile, a presentation type for instructing the one or more students;
- (c) logic that couples the one or more students and one or more instructors through the virtual classroom server; and
- (d) logic that establishes interaction parameters for the one or more students and the one or more instructors; and
- (e) logic that updates the student profile during a simulation without disruption to the simulation.

68. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom, comprising:

- (a) a code segment that connects a virtual classroom server and one or more students;
- (b) a code segment that selects, based on a student profile, a presentation type for instructing the one or more students;
- (c) a code segment that couples the one or more students and one or more instructors through the virtual classroom server; and
- (d) a code segment that establishes interaction parameters for the one or more students and the one or more instructors; and
- (e) a code segment that updates the student profile during a simulation without disruption to the simulation.

69. (Previously Presented) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 68, wherein the presentation type includes at least one of lecture, simulation, media, interactive browsing, slideshow, video or audio.

70. (Previously Presented) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 68, wherein the interaction parameters are a protocol for interaction that allow only one person to interact with the virtual classroom at a time.

71. (Previously Presented) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 68, wherein the interaction parameters are a protocol for interaction that allow a plurality of people to participate in the virtual classroom.

72. (Previously Presented) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 68, wherein materials are provided for use by the one or more students and one or more teachers in the virtual classroom.

73. (Previously Presented) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 68, wherein homework materials are provided for use by the one or more students in the virtual classroom.

74. (Previously Presented) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 68, wherein tests are provided for use by the one or more students.

75. (Previously Presented) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 68, wherein breakout sessions are provided for the one or more students and one or more teachers in the virtual classroom.

76. (Previously Presented) The computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium that establishes a virtual classroom as recited in claim 68, wherein the virtual classroom is recorded.